

PROJECT 10073 RECORD CARD

1. DATE 23 October 1957		2. LOCATION Polk County Florida Lake Wales & Bartow AB, Fla.		12. CONCLUSIONS <input type="checkbox"/> Was Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Balloon <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Possibly Balloon <input type="checkbox"/> Was Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Aircraft <input type="checkbox"/> Was Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Probably Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Possibly Astronomical <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Insufficient Data for Evaluation <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown	
3. DATE-TIME GROUP Local 1700 GMT 23/2200Z		4. TYPE OF OBSERVATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Ground-Radar <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air-Visual <input type="checkbox"/> Air-Intercept Radar			
5. PHOTOS <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		6. SOURCE Civilian			
7. LENGTH OF OBSERVATION one hour		8. NUMBER OF OBJECTS one		9. COURSE South	
10. BRIEF SUMMARY OF SIGHTING A round silver object with a red light on one side the size of a dirigible at arm's length, directly overhead & moving slowly. See: Tape 7-3745-426 (TAPE RECORDING IN SPECIMEN FILE)				11. COMMENTS The size is probably a mis-interpretation. Concur with preparing officer. Possible WX balloon. Information called in to Mr. Sanderson as AFCIN-X had previously requested that it be kept informal.	

PAGE TWO RJESKB 2D

2. MOVING SLOWLY TOWARD SOUTH-20 DEGREES IN 1 HOUR

A. JUST HAPPENED TO SOPT IT

B. DIRECTLY OVER HEAD

C. STILL IN SIGHT AT TIME OF CALL

D. MOVING SLOWLY SOUTH

E. STILL IN SIGHT AT TIME OF CALL

F. ONE HOUR

3.

. AIR VISUAL AND GROUND VISUAL

B. NONE

C. APACHE ~~16,500~~ 16,500 FT. ORBITING AT 120 KNOTS-OBJECT APPEARED

TO BE ABOUT 50,000 ~~FT~~ FT AB JT OVER HIS ALTITUDE ~~←~~ *DISTANCE ABOVE ACFT.*

4. 23 OCT 1957 AT 1700 EST IN SIGHT FOR ONE HOUR

A. 23 OCT 1957 AT 2200 ZULU

B. DAY

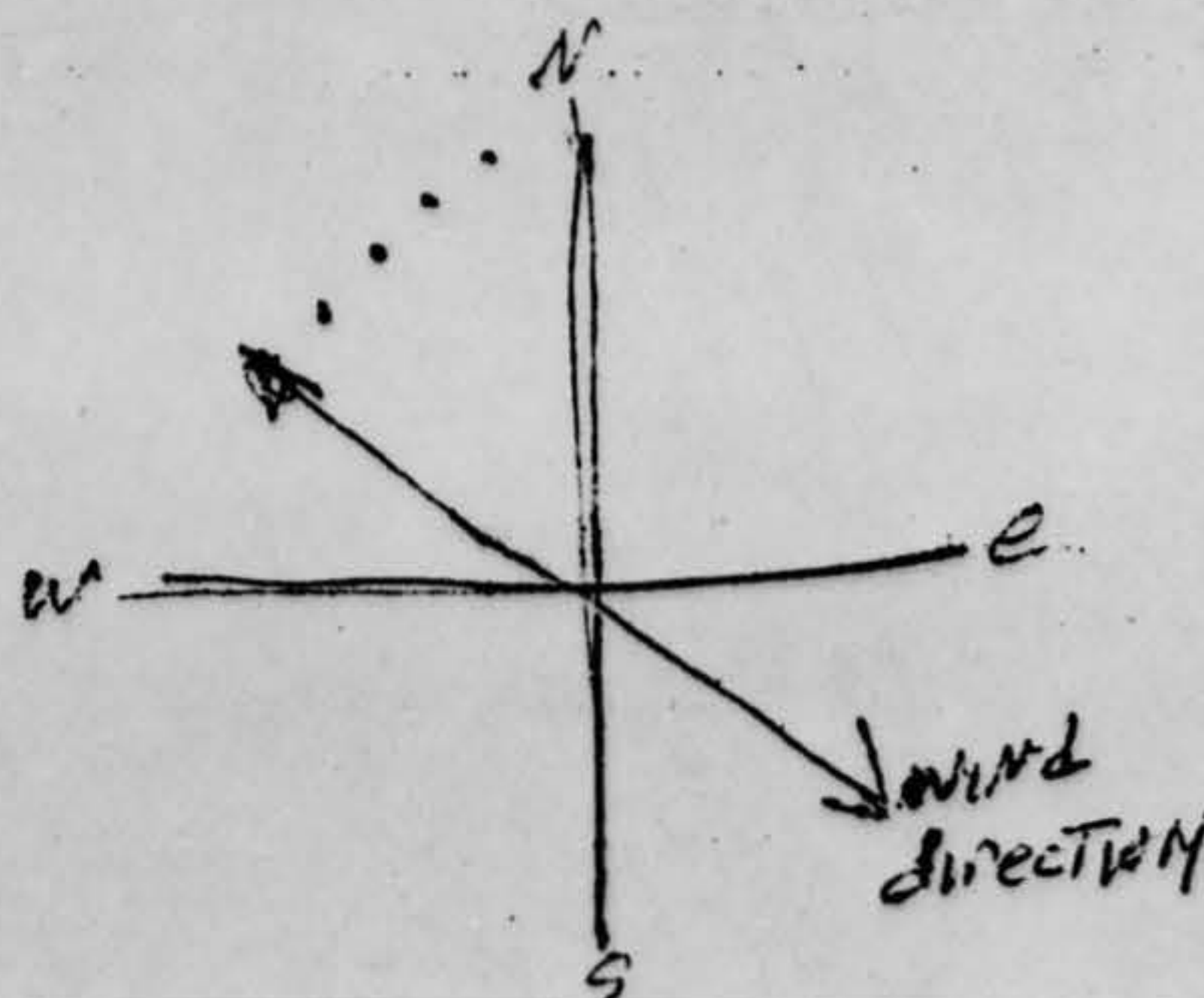
5. OVER LAKE WALES FLA AND AT BARTOW AB FLA

6.

A. MR. ~~██████~~ N/A BARTOW AB, FLA FLIGHT INSTURCTOR

B. N/A

7. CLEAR TO PARTLY CLOUDY



25 OCT 57 07 26
M WPA019 YDD015 VYB012VDD007KBA003

PP RJEDEN RJEDWP RJEPHQ RJEPNB

ZEL RJESKB

KBA049

PP RJEDEN RJEDWP RJEPHQ RJEPNB

DE RJESKB 2D

P 242200Z

FM COMDR 660TH ACWRON MACDILL AFB FLA

TO RJEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS CLOL

RJESKB/COMDR 35TH ADIV D DOBBINS AFB GA

RJEDWP/COMDR AIR TECH INT CNTR WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

RJEPHQ/DIR OF INT HQ USAF WASH 25 DC

INFO RJEPNB/COMDR EADF STEWART AFB NY

BT

//UNCLASSIFIED//OPS 0597. PD ATTN: EADF CIO PD

1.

A. ROUND

B. DIRIGIBLE

C. SILVER WITH RED LIGHT

D. ONE

E. N/A

F. RED LIGHT ON ONE SIDE

G. NONE

H. NONE

I. NONE

Size AT ARMS
LENGTH? Impossible
to see anything else
but object

PAGE THREE RJESKB 2D

A. SCATTERED THUNDER CLOUDS

B. 5-140/20 10-070/05 15-290/10 20-310/20 25-330/20

30-300/26 40-310/55 50-310/35KTS

C. SCATTERED

D. GOOD

E. SCATTERED

F. NO THUNDER STORMS

8. NONE

O. VECTORED BACKSTAGE 6 TO THE AREA AT 1820 EST SEARCHED THE AREA

FOR 15 MIN-NO JOY

10. APACHE ~~REDACTED~~ OVER LAKE WALES FLA

11. 1/LT HANS A SORENSON USAF SENIOR DIRECTOR ON DUTY POSSIBLE

WX BALLON

12. NONE

BT

24/2158Z OCT RJESKB

E

17
3-4E4
3-4X2a
HED

JEDWP H014 WPF008 YDD011 VYD004 VDD002KEA024

PP RJEDDN RJEDWP RJEPHQ RJEPNB

DE RJESKB 68

P 281607Z

FM COMDR 35TH CADD DOBBINS AFB GA

TO RJEDDN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLO

RJEDWP/COMDR ATIC WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OHIO

RJEPHQ/ACS INTELLIGENCE HQ USAF WASH DC

INFO RJEPNB/COMDR EADF STEWART AFB NY

BT

/UNCLASSIFIED/INT 6659. UFOB. ATTN: EADF CIC. REFERENCE UFOB
REPORT CITE OPS 0597 FROM 660TH ACWON. FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION WAS FURNISHED BY 35TH ADCC: CAPT. W.E. PETERS, DUTY
CONTROLLER, CONTACTED MAXWELL FLIGHT SERVICE. FLIGHT SERVICE THEN
INFORMED A B-47 CALL SIGN VENICE 37 OF THE OBJECT. VENICE 37 FLEW
TO THE AREA OF THE OBJECT AND REPORTED HAVING OBSERVED IT. THE
DESCRIPTION GIVEN BY VENICE 37 WAS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS GIVEN BY
THE ORIGINAL OBSERVER WITH THE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION THAT THE
OBJECT SEEMED TO HAVE A GONDOLA ATTACHED. THE 35TH ADCC WEATHER
OFFICER COMMENTS THAT THE OBJECT COULD HAVE BEEN A WEATHER BALLOON
LAUNCHED IN THE ORLANDO, FLA. AREA. NO FURTHER ACTION TAKEN.

BT

28/1622Z OCT RJESKE

atic
57 OCT 28 12:33

COUNTRY United States	REPORT NO.	(LEAVE BLANK)
AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT		
SUBJECT Report of Unidentified flying object		
AREA REPORTED ON Central Florida (Polk County)	FROM (Agency) Lake Wales, Florida	
DATE OF REPORT 23 October 1957	DATE OF INFORMATION	EVALUATION
PREPARED BY (Officer) Albert J. McGill, Capt., USAF	SOURCE Tape Recording from WGTO Telephone conversation with [REDACTED]	
REFERENCES (Control number, direction, previous report, etc., as applicable) Air Force Regulation 200-2		
SUMMARY: (Enter concise summary of report. Give significance in final one-sentence paragraph. List inclosures at lower left. Begin text of report on AF Form 112-Part II.)		
<p>1. In accordance with AFR 200-2, this report is submitted covering the sighting of an unidentified flying object.</p> <p>(1) Description:</p> <p>(a) To the naked eye, object appeared oblong with a tail projecting horizontally to the north.</p> <p>(b) Large.</p> <p>(c) Shiny.</p> <p>(d) One.</p> <p>(e) Not applicable.</p> <p>(f) Object was described as too shiny for a weather balloon. It remained stationary while roughly ten mile circles were made around it over period of observation, which was approximately two hours.</p> <p>(g) Oblong object with tail projecting north horizontally.</p> <p>(h) No sound was heard.</p> <p>(i) None.</p> <p>(2) Description of course of object:</p> <p>(a) Mr. [REDACTED] at Lake Wales, Florida, Polk County, and four other long time pilots went up Wednesday afternoon, October 23rd, in a Piper Apache at approximately 3:15 to an altitude of about 16,500 feet. They went to investigate an unidentified flying object reported to the airport by local observer, and widely seen over central Polk County that afternoon.</p> <p>(b) The five men had no binoculars or telescope, but estimated that the object was at an altitude of 50,000 or 60,000 feet above them, or approximately 66,500 or 76,500 feet altitude. They kept the object continuously in view for</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(more)</p> <p>1 Incl: Recording Tape.</p>		
DISTRIBUTION BY ORIGINATOR ADC:		
Original w/o Incl to ACS/I, HEDUSAF		
Copy w/ Incl to Comdr, ATIC		
Copy w/o Incl to Comdr, ADC		

JOINT MESSAGEFORM				SECURITY CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED			
SPACE BELOW RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER							
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> 29 OCT 57 21 25Z PRIORITY 149C 29/22533 </div>							
PRECEDENCE		TYPE MSG (Check)		ACCOUNTING SYMBOL		ORIG. OR REFERS TO	
ACTION PRIORITY		BOOK MULTI SINGLE		AF		OPS 0597	
INFO		X				CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE UNCL	
FROM: COMDR ATIC						SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS	
TO: COMMANDER, AIR DEFENSE COMMAND, ENT AIR FORCE BASE, COLORADO ATTENTION: D/I <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 10px;"><i>RJEODN</i></div>							
UNCL/FROM: AFCIN-4E4 CITE <u>10-1661-E</u> REFERENCE OPS 0597 DATED 24 OCTOBER 1957. REQUEST FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF UFO SIGHTING OVER LAKE WELLS AND BARTOW AIR BASE, FLORIDA. REQUEST INFORMATION AS TO WHAT TYPE OF BALLOON, IF BALLOON AND WHAT WAS ATTACHED. WHERE WAS BALLOON LAUNCHED, AND ALL PERTINENT INFORMATION AS TO ITS FLIGHT PATH FROM ORIGIN TO PLACE OF SIGHTING, IF AVAILABLE. COORDINATION AFCIN-4E4 <i>Henry G. Miley</i> DATE <u>29 Oct 57</u> Dr. Henry G. Miley							
				DATE 29		TIME 1550	
				MONTH OCT		YEAR 57	
WRITER	SYMBOL AFCIN-4E4			SIGNATURE 			
	TYPED NAME AND TITLE (Signature, if required) T/Sgt James Bolieu			TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE WALLACE W. ELWOOD Captain, USAF Assistant Adjutant			
	PHONE 69216		PAGE NR. 1		RELEASED		
	SECURITY CLASSIFICATION UNCLASSIFIED		NR. OF PAGES 1				

DD FORM 173
1 MAY 55

REPLACES DD FORM 173, 1 OCT 49, WHICH WILL BE USED UNTIL EXHAUSTED

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE	OF	PAGES
Report of Unidentified Flying Object		2	3	
<p>approximately two hours.</p> <p>(c) No statement made by observers.</p> <p>(d) Object remained stationary during period of observation.</p> <p>(e) Object remained in sight for approximately two hours. No disappearance of object was noted by observers.</p> <p>3. Manner of observation:</p> <p>(a) Object was sighted airborne and ground-visual.</p> <p>(b) No binoculars or telescopes used. Object was viewed by naked eye only.</p> <p>(c) Object was sighted by four long time pilots in a Piper Apache. Altitude was approximately 16,500 feet.</p> <p>4. Time and date of sighting: Approximately 1515 (EST) (2015Z) on Monday, 23 October 1957. Day and dusk.</p> <p>5. Location of observer: Lake Wales, Florida, Polk County.</p> <p>6. Identifying information of observers:</p> <p>(a) [REDACTED] at Lake Wales, Florida, and four others (names unknown). Various Civilian Ground Observers over Central Polk County (names unknown). No military observers.</p> <p>7. Weather and winds at time and place of sighting:</p> <p>(a) Winds were reported to be 22 miles an hour at altitude of 50,000 feet.</p> <p>(b) Unknown.</p> <p>(c) Unknown.</p> <p>(d) Unknown.</p> <p>(e) Unknown.</p> <p>(f) Unknown.</p> <p>8. None.</p> <p>9. An unidentified radio contact told [REDACTED] that Pinecastle Air Force Base had sent two B-47s to an altitude of 15,000 feet to check their observations. Same radio contact requested [REDACTED] to switch to unidentified defense agency radio named to him by code name, which the radio contact declined to disclose, but which [REDACTED] believed to be Tampa, Florida. The agency radio asked [REDACTED] to transmit on what [REDACTED] called to international distress frequency which [REDACTED] said is known as Guard Channel 125. Hull also stated he was in communication for some time on this frequency regarding his observation and was told by the agency radio that he would be contacted later. This reporting officer checked with Captain Groves, Wing Control Room, who stated no aircraft was deployed on that date to search for object sighted.</p> <p>(more)</p>				

AIR INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION REPORT

FROM (Agency)	REPORT NO.	PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES
<p>10. None - other than two B-47s.</p> <p>11. Reporting officer did not see object or had no knowledge of same until after phone call on date stated. Report was delayed until tape recording could be acquired and transmitted with same. No other comments or analysis.</p> <p>12. None are known to exist.</p> <p><i>Albert J. McGill</i> ALBERT J. MCGILL CAPTAIN, USAF STAFF INFORMATION SERVICES OFFICER</p>		

Mr. [REDACTED]

Senator [REDACTED]

Florida

General Jones

25 October

1300 hours

Unidentified Flying Objects

[REDACTED] was called by Mr. [REDACTED] of the Lakeland, Florida, Ledger who reported that at 2 p.m. on Wednesday 23 October, a large gondola shaped unidentified object was observed hovering over Pope County at about 80,000 feet. Local residents called the Miami Filter Center, the ISO's at Pinecastle and MacDill AF Bases and the Security Officer at Patrick AF Base. Allegedly all of these individuals indicated they had no idea what the object was and made no effort to attempt to investigate. The people are disturbed about this attitude on the part of the Air Force and feel that the Air Force's responsibility was not fulfilled. Senator [REDACTED] has asked for a report in this matter as soon as possible.

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

28 October 1957

Dear Captain Elwood:

Senator [REDACTED] office called Brigadier General C. D. Jones, Deputy Director of the Office of Legislative Liaison with reference to a large gondola-shaped Unidentified Flying Object which hovered over Pope County, Florida at approximately 80,000 feet at 1400 hours on Wednesday, 23 October 1957.

Senator [REDACTED] was concerned because local residents called the Miami Filter Center, the ISOs at Pinecastle and MacDill Air Force Bases and the Security Officer at Patrick Air Force Base with negative results. Allegedly all of these individuals indicated that they had no idea what the object was and made no effort to investigate.

The people are disturbed about this attitude on the part of the Air Force and feel that the Air Force's responsibility was not fulfilled. This sighting should have been reported to your headquarters immediately in accordance with AFR 200-2, dated 12 August 1954.

Will you please check your records to see if this sighting was reported to your headquarters from any other source. If an identification or evaluation of this sighting is possible, please send the results to me as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



LAWRENCE J. TACKER
Major, USAF
Executive Officer
Public Information Division
Office of Information Services

0271
Captain Wallace W. Elwood, USAF
Assistant Adjutant
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base
Dayton, Ohio



Letter to Honorable [REDACTED] (Cont)

With the exception of the official press release referred to above, the Air Force has not cleared, sponsored, or otherwise coordinated any books, motion pictures, pamphlets, or other informational material on the subject of unidentified aerial objects. Nothing has occurred since the Department of Defense release on 23 October 1955 to change the official United States Air Force position on the subject, and the new statistics through 30 June 1957 substantiate this stand.

Approximately 5,700 reports have been received from 1947 to the present time:

Statistics for 1956 are:

Total Reports 778

Conclusions

Balloons	26.1%
Aircraft	24.6%
Astronomical	26.3%
Other (Birds, lights, hoaxes, etcetera)	6.7%
Insufficient Data	14.1%
Unknown	2.2%

Statistics for the first half of 1957 are:

Total Reports 250

Conclusions

Balloons	26.4%
Aircraft	28.3%
Astronomical	24.4%
Other (Birds, lights, hoaxes, etcetera)	6.4%
Insufficient Data	12.1%
Unknown	1.9%

No reports of unidentified aerial objects have been withheld. It is a practice, however, that the names of persons involved in reported sightings and the many details of the individual

23 OCT

SAFLL-1/Mr. Wilson/pls/1641/23 Oct 57 -
SAFLL

file
JFO

300CF

Dear Senator ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Recently you furnished me with information concerning an unidentified aerial object over Pope County, Florida, on 23 October 1957.

Details of this sighting of an unidentified aerial object have been forwarded to the Air Technical Intelligence Center at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, for possible analysis and identification. The report of their findings, if any, will be forwarded to your office as soon as it is received in Air Force Headquarters.

On 5 May 1955, the Department of the Air Force declassified its special study, Project Bluebook, Report Number 14, Analysis of Reports on Unidentified Aerial Objects. On 25 October 1955, the Department of Defense released the summary of the Air Force study. A copy of the news release and summary are inclosed for your information. It showed that the Air Force had reduced the number of unknown sightings from approximately ten percent in 1954 to approximately three percent. New figures as of 30 June 1957, about to be published, show the unknowns to be less than two percent. The unknown sightings are of concern to the Air Force and will continue to be investigated. There are, however, several primary points concerning the results of our study which may be reiterated. The study has shown:

There is a total lack of evidence that the phenomena observed have inimical or hostile forces behind them.

There is a total lack of evidence that they are interplanetary vehicles.

There is a total lack of evidence that they constitute any threat to the security of the United States or any country.

COORD
COMEBACK
SAFIS
SAFLL-1
Stayback

Letter to Honorable [REDACTED] (Cont)

cases will not be made public. Most of the persons who report sightings to the Air Force do so in confidence and their wishes are respected.

The Air Force does not consider the unidentified aerial objects question a dead issue and will continue to use the services of qualified scientists and technicians in the investigation and analysis of each reported case with only one end in view, to establish the truth.

A copy of our letter to the Air Technical Intelligence Center, has been forwarded to each of the Commanders of the Air Force activities involved in Florida, in order to preclude the possibility of any indifference with respect to this subject.

Sincerely yours,

CHARLES D. JONES
Brigadier General, USAF
For and in the absence of

JOE W. KELLY
Major General, USAF
Director, Legislative Liaison

Inclosure
Fact Sheet-News Release dtd 25 Oct 55.
Honorable [REDACTED]

United States Senate

MR: Originated when Mr. [REDACTED] of Senator [REDACTED] office called General Jones on 25 October and requested a report. Case was hand-carried to Major Tacker, SAFIS, on 25 October for info to base reply w/susp 28 October. On 28 October Major Tacker hand-carried [REDACTED] to M&O Branch a proposed draft of reply. Final prepd & fided 28 October based on draft furnished by Maj Tacker.

434

HEADQUARTERS
AIR FORCE MISSILE TEST CENTER
AIR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT COMMAND
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
Patrick Air Force Base, Florida

In reply address communication to Comdr,
AFMTC, attention following office symbol

MTCA

1 Nov 57


Dear Captain Elwood:

This Center received a courtesy copy of Major L. J. Tacker's letter to you of 28 October 1957, regarding "a large gondola shaped unidentified Flying Object which hovered over Pope (sic) County...23 October 1957". It is believed that Polk County is the correct location as there is no Pope County in Florida.

An investigation has not uncovered any record of the reference call having been received at this Center. Four of the five pertinent agencies checked, maintain blotters & logs on such calls. The fifth agency, the AFMTC Staff Provost Marshall, also has no knowledge of the call.

It is regretted that this Center can not be of further assistance in this matter. A study by this office revealed that over 90% of the UFO calls are the result of sightings relating to our operations (missile test, weather balloons, aircraft instrumentation and range instrumentation checks).

Sincerely yours,


ROBERT SATTEM, Captain, USAF

Capt. Wallace W. Elwood, USAF
Assistant Adjutant
Air Technical Intelligence Center
Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio

UFO SIGHTING, LAKE WALES
23 October 1957
23/2200Z

Reported on tape by [REDACTED]

Wednesday afternoon at approximately 3:00 I received a phone call from an observer in Lake Wales telling me that there was an object in the sky at what he figured was 20 thousand feet. I went outside of my office and looked up viewing this object then proceeded to check with the Orlando radio on the chance that it might be a weather balloon. Orlando had nothing reported in the area, and since it is practice to report these balloons, we decided that we would go up and take a look at this object. We entered a Piper Apache aircraft (twin engine) and proceeded to climb up to try and view this object.

We climbed to 16,500 feet over Haines City and had the object in view all the time. At 16,500 the object appeared to be 50 to 60 thousand feet above us. We kept the object in sight circling it at all times, thereby eliminating the possibility that it might be a star.

Upon receiving the upper winds report giving us winds at 50 thousand feet of 22 knots, we disqualified the chance that it might be a weather balloon because of the fact that at 22 knots wind a weather balloon would have been drifting; and this object stayed stationary directly over Haines City for more than 2 hours as we were up from 3:30 till almost 6:00 searching this object.

The object appeared to have some sort of a tail or trailing fuselage type design. It appeared to be oblong in shape. The tail part of the object was not visible at all times probably due to sunlight reflection.

We discount the fact that it could have been a weather balloon due to the fact that the object was much too shiney. Weather balloons are coated dull with a powdery effect so that they won't shine and reflect. All the people in the a/c with me during this time were licensed pilots who have been flying for many years and have seen many such weather balloons; and therefore, we discounted the weather balloon theory on the basis of our own past experience.

We kept the object in sight until approximately 5:42 at which time the object appeared to be ascending rapidly and on our next circling of the object, it had completely disappeared.

There appeared to be no descent whatsoever to the object.

This is [REDACTED]

4 Nov 57 08 45

Nov 2 00 58 '57

1
2 } 4E4
3 }
4-4XZC
RLO

RD011

WPE007DNA012

PP RJEDWP

DE RJEDDN 181

P 012328Z

FM COMADC

TO COMDR ATIC

BT

/UNCLAS/ADODI-B 135 PD REFERENCE YOUR MESSAGE AFCIN 4E4 CITE 10-1661-E.

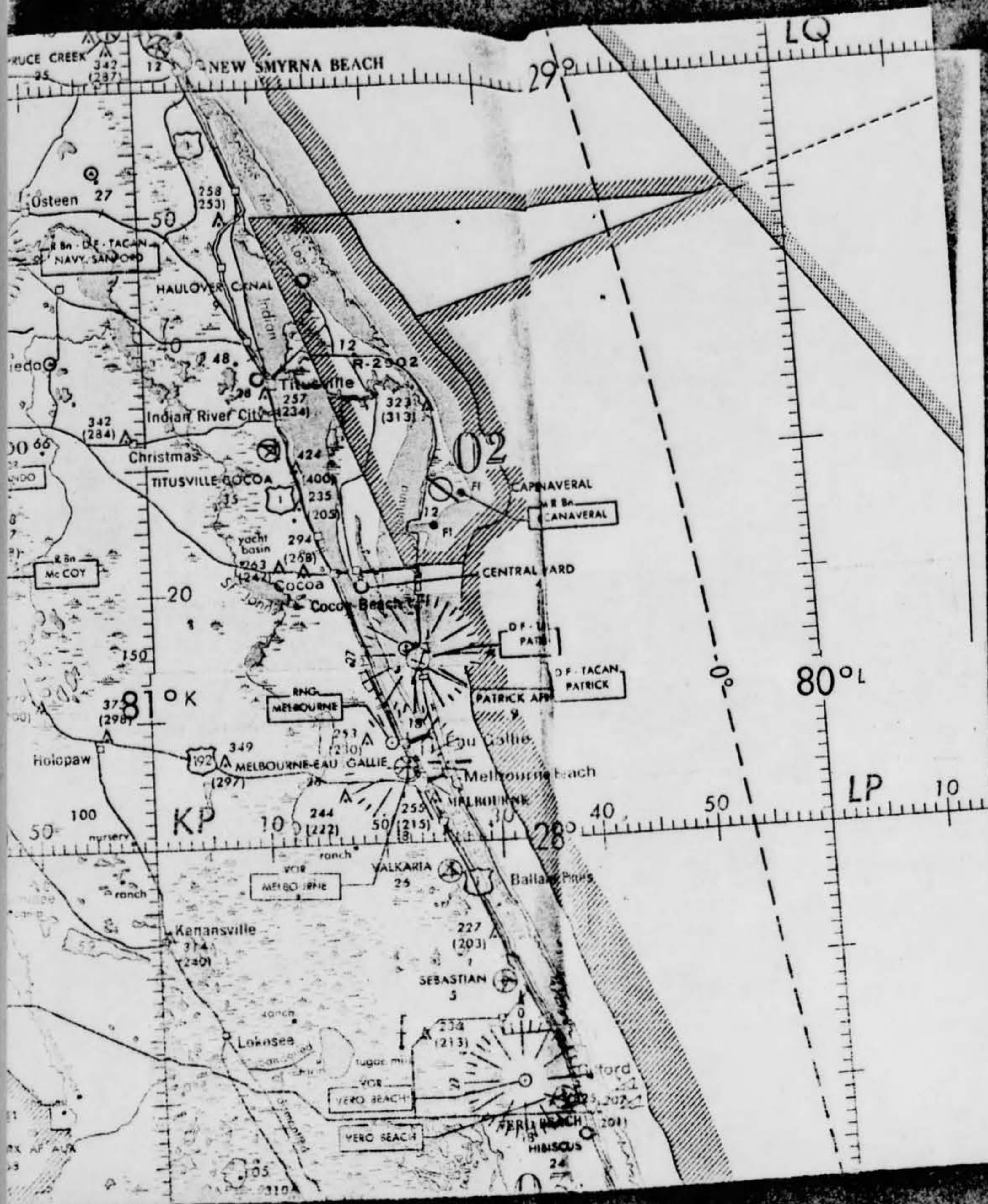
NO ACTION TAKEN. REFERENCE MESSAGE 35TH AIR DIVISION DOBBINS AFB

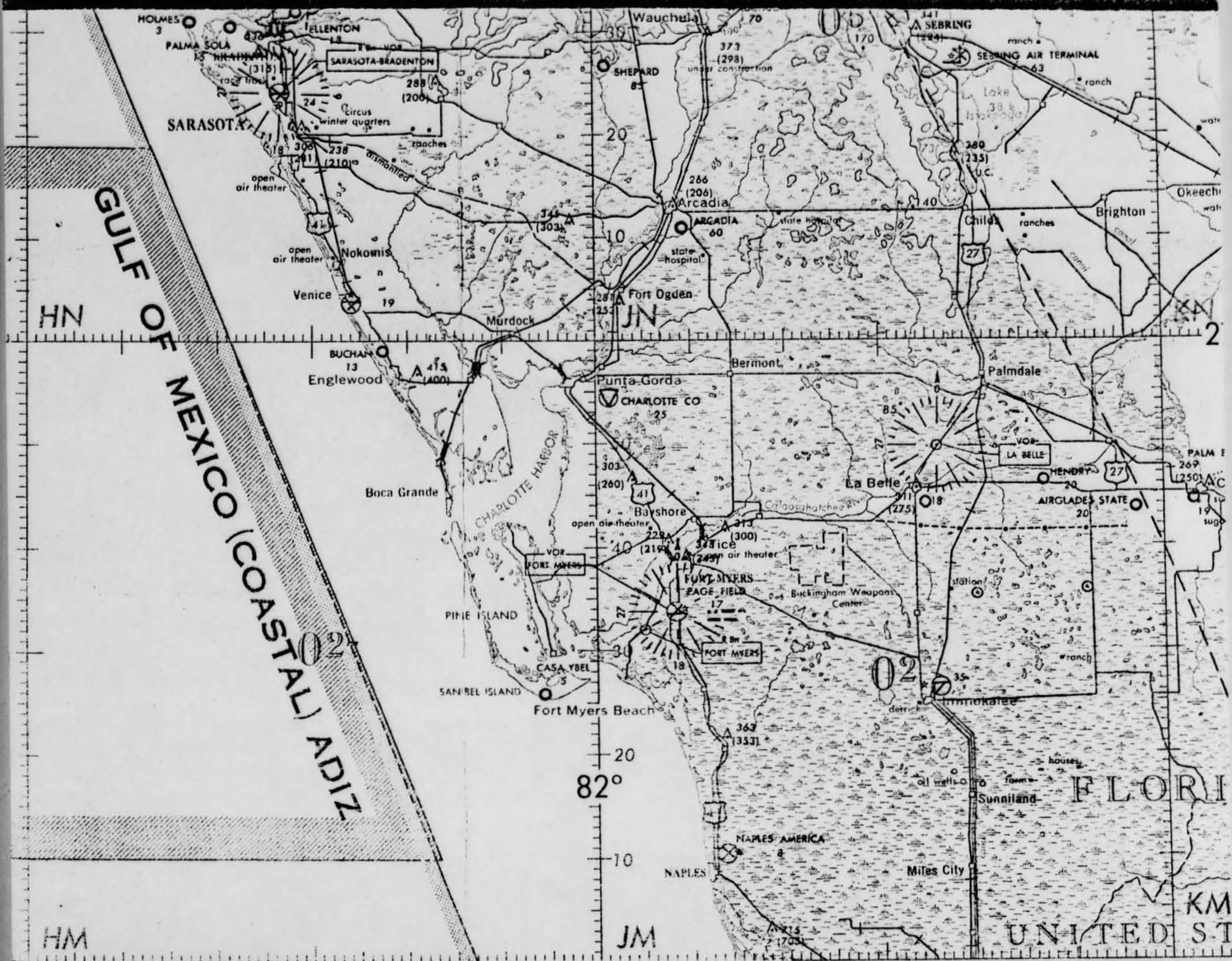
GEORGIA CITE INT 6659, COPY TO YOUR CENTER. BALLOON REPORTED LAUNCHED

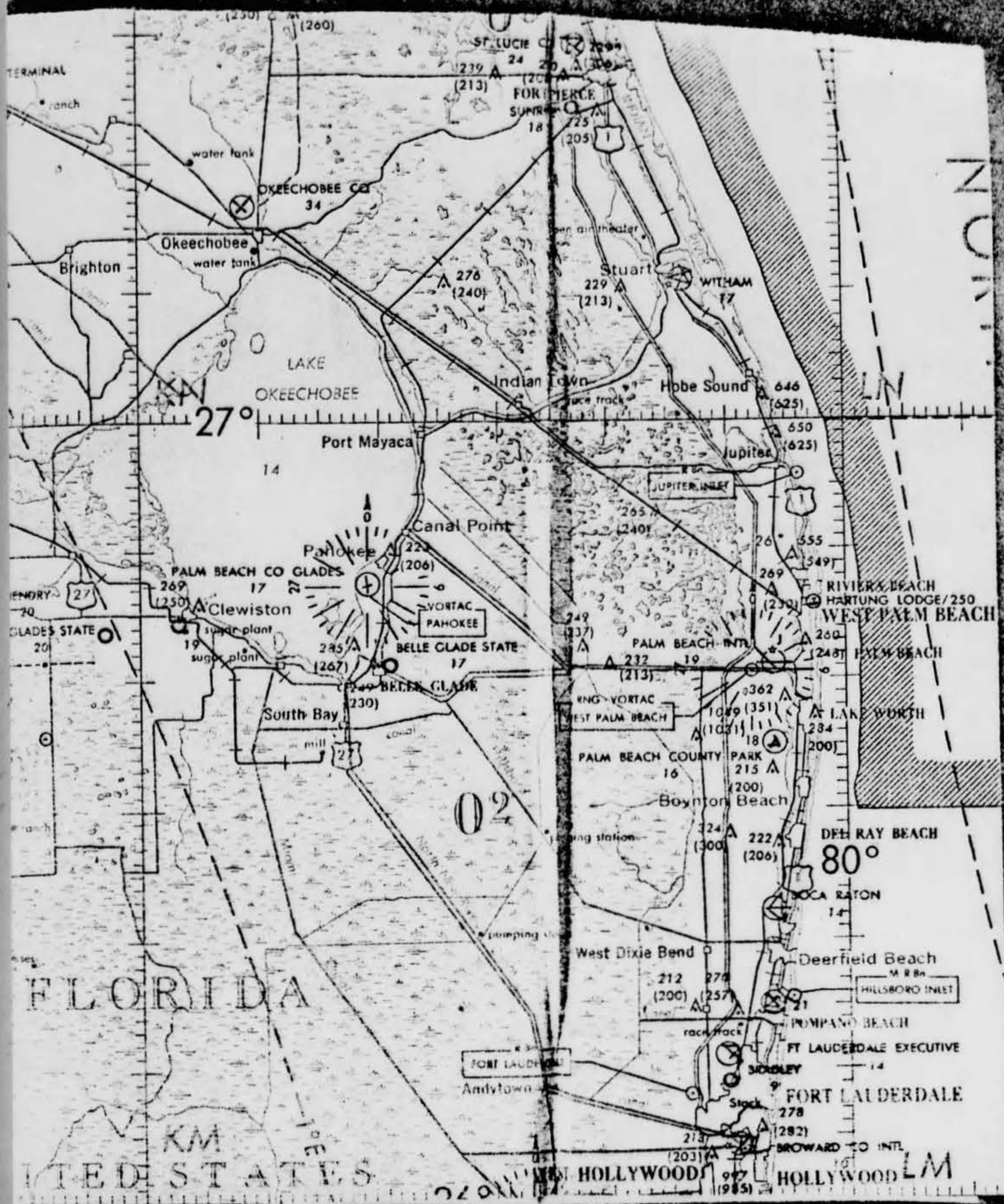
IN ORLANDO FLORIDA AREA. END

BT

01/2331Z NOV RJEDDN







POLK COUNTY, FL

22 OCT 57

CASE CONTAINS TAPED

RECORDING IN SEPARATE

FOLDER

Audio-Tape

Oct. 23, 1957

Polk County, Fla.

Observer - Multi

File # 1003474

In custody of Audio-Visual Division

59117 NTFD 24/23452 W

25 OCT 57 07 20

OCT 24 22 42 '57

NNNN

RC175

O WPA178 YDB122 VYC198VDD096KBA049

PP RJEDEN RJEDWP RJEPHQ RJEPNB

DE RJESKB 2D

P 242200Z

FM COMDR 660TH ACWRON MACDILL AFB FLA

TO RJEDEN/COMDR ADC ENT AFB COLORADO SPRINGS COLO

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RJEPHQ/DIR OF INT HQ USAF WASH 25 DC

INFO RJEPNB/COMDR EADF STEWART AFB NY

BT

//UNCLASSIFIED//OPS 0597 PD ATTN: EADF CIO PD

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A. ROUND

B. DIRIGIBLE

C. SILVER WITH RED LIGHT

D. ONE

E. N/A

F. RED LIGHT ON ONE SIDE

G. NONE

H. NONE

I. NONE

BT

24/2158Z OCT RJESKB

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2
3
4-4x2ca
RJD

WA49A

1957
WASHINGTON, NOV. 18.--(UP)--THE AIR FORCE SAID TODAY THAT "FLYING SAUCERS" REPORTED OVER JACKSONVILLE AND POLK COUNTY, FLORIDA, LATE LAST MONTH HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED TENTATIVELY AS A SINGLE LARGE WEATHER BALLOON DRIFTING OVER THE STATE.

THIS EXPLANATION, A SPOKESMAN EMPHASIZED, IS "NOT FINAL" BUT "ALL EVIDENCE SO FAR AVAILABLE" INDICATES THAT NO "STRANGE OBJECTS" WERE INVOLVED IN THE REPORTS.

SEN. GEORGE A. SMATHERS (D-FLA.) HAD ASKED THE AIR FORCE FOR AN EXPLANATION OF A REPORT OF A SO-CALLED "FLYING SAUCER" OVER POLK COUNTY ON OCT. 23. A SIMILAR REPORT WAS RECEIVED BY THE AIR FORCE FROM JACKSONVILLE A FEW DAYS LATER.

SILVER-COLORED BALLOONS ARE REGULARLY USED TO CARRY METEOROLOGICAL INSTRUMENTS ALOFT TO GATHER WEATHER INFORMATION.

(MH) JE135P